

8. India Endemic for Zika Virus Disease

A possible endemic transmission is considered if there is consistent presence of laboratory confirmed case of Zika virus disease 12 months after the initial outbreak. A large percentage of the population may have acquired immunity to Zika virus disease. Sporadic cases will be reported.

8.1 Programmatic Approach through National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme

In an endemic situation, the management of Zika virus disease will be incorporated into the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

Much of the action being taken for Dengue and Chikungunya will complement Zika virus disease control. The core capacities for managing Zika virus disease namely surveillance (including entomological surveillance), laboratory support, vector control and risk communication, monitoring, information management etc shall be managed under the NVBDCP programme. The programme will also provide guidance/ tools/ training for effective control of Zika virus disease

[Action : Director, NVBDCP]

8.2. Surveillance and Response for Acute Neurological Illnesses

IDSP will buildup Surveillance for acute neurological illnesses in co-ordination with the existing AFP surveillance carried out under NPSP.

[Action: Director : NCDC; Immunization Division]

8.3. Surveillance and Response for Congenital Zika Syndrome

Under MCH programme, hospital/ community based health workers attending on pregnant mothers will be trained to take history of fever / rash/ joint pains and get them tested for Zika virus disease. Depending upon endemicity of the disease, decision could be taken to test all pregnant mothers for Zika virus disease.

A Zika positive mother will be counseled to take informed decision on termination of pregnancy, subject to conformity with laid down regulations under the MTP Act.

RBSK will further strengthen surveillance on birth defects including microcephaly. Health care workers providing neonatal care will be trained to measure head circumference of the newborn. A suspect microcephaly case will be further evaluated for confirmation at tertiary centres. All such infants shall be tested for presence of Zika virus infection.

RBSK will issue guidelines for screening, assessing and managing neonates and infants in areas with Zika virus transmission. RBSK shall also design and implement comprehensive health services for the affected infants.

[Action : NHM]

8.4. Managing sexual transmission of Zika virus disease.

National AIDS Control Organization will conduct studies to establish the incidence of transmission of zika virus through sexual route. This will provide evidence base to implement an integrated programme (along with other sexually transmitted diseases) for prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus disease.

[Action : NACO]

8.5 Eliminating blood borne transmission

Subject to availability of screening tests, NBTC shall consider making Zika virus testing mandatory for all donors/ blood bags throughout the country.

[Action : NBTC, NACO]

8.6 Research

ICMR/ Department of Health research will undertake research in new technologies for diagnosing the Zika virus. It will also initiate and support research for Zika vaccine. New tools for vector control will be developed and evaluated.

[Action : ICMR/ DHR]